

MINUTES OF THE SD WEED & PEST CONTROL COMMISSION
Wednesday, September 13, 2017
SDSU Regional Extension Center
Sioux Falls, SD

Chairman Lynn Deibert called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM, September 13, 2017. Present were Chairman Deibert, and Commissioners Ron Thyen, Craig Magedanz, Duane Buckmeier, Floyd Muntefering, and Association of County Commissioners representative Neil VonEschen; School and Public Lands Commissioner Ryan Brunner; Non-Voting Members - SD Department of Agriculture representative Kyle Holt; and SDSU representative Paul Johnson; and Commission Secretary Brenda Sievers. (Exhibit #1)

Neil VonEschen made a motion, seconded by Floyd Muntefering, to approve the agenda (Exhibit #2). Motion carried.

The minutes of the April 3, 2017, meeting was presented. Ron Thyen made a motion, seconded by Craig Magedanz to approve the minutes of the April 3, 2017, meeting. (Exhibit #3) Motion carried.

ACTIVITY REPORTS

SD Department of Agriculture – Weed & Pest Coordinator – Brenda Sievers

Brenda talked about challenges this past summer. One challenge was the discovery of Japanese beetle larvae that were shipped in container nursery stock to South Dakota. Brenda and Paul Anderson, Seed/Nursery Specialist, attended a tour at Bailey's Nursery in Minneapolis at the end of July. Brenda showed pictures of the nursery stock that was received, tour areas and also areas in MN that have Japanese beetle infestations. Brenda talked about the changes that took place in April with a new Division Director being named for Ag Services who is Taya Runyan. The Assistant Director is Tom Gere, who was unable to attend the meeting. Brenda presented Tom's report which included information on the drift that has been seen in the State with Dicamba.

SD Department of Agriculture – Kyle Holt

Kyle Holt, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, talked about the drought and the issues that are related to that including the fire season. He also talked about the issues with Dicamba and that the state had only issued a one year conditional permit, which expires on December 31, 2017.

SDSU – Paul Johnson

Paul talked about the challenges that Dicamba has brought and also talked about the vapor drift that many are experiencing.

Weed & Pest Supervisor – Ron Moehring

Ron has been receiving complaints on noxious weeds and also on prairie dogs. This year we did approximately 2,000 acres for weed free forage inspections, compared to almost 10,000 acres last year when the pipeline was going through. Ron reported that there are 6 counties without weed supervisors and 5 more counties have new weed supervisors.

District 4 – Duane Buckmeier

Duane reported that his area is very dry. The ground is all brown there. He also talked about the prairie dog issues that he has seen.

District 3 – Lynn Deibert

Lynn reported that his area isn't as dry as out west. His area started receiving rain in early August. There was a poor small grain crop and corn fields that didn't come up because of the drought. They have Canada Thistle in areas they haven't seen before. He thought there was an increase in Yellow Toadflax and wormwood sage, mainly due to the short grass and the ability to see it better.

SD Association of County Commissioners – Neil VonEschen

Neil said fall spraying is currently being done. They haven't been affected as much by the drought. They do have plenty of Musk and Canada Thistle.

District 2 – Floyd Muntefering

Floyd reported they had received 7 inches of rain in the last several weeks. They should still have over 100 bu. corn. He felt the CRP hay had a lot of Canada Thistle in it and the donated hay could be an issue because of potential weeds in it.

District At Large – Craig Magedanz

Craig talked about some of the CRP hay should have been mowed and left lay due to the weeds that were in it. Poison hemlock has really showed up in his area this year.

District 1 – Ron Thyen

Ron reported that the rain was good but his area had a hail storm that de-barked a lot of the trees. The weather has been extreme this year.

Ryan Brunner – SD School and Public Lands

Ryan stated they have had complaints on prairie dogs and the difficulty to find contractors to control them.

Bio-Control Survey Updates –Mike Stenson

Mike updated the Commission on work being conducted with Bio-Control on Leafy Spurge, Poison Hemlock, Dalmation Toadflax, Yellow Toadflax, and Diffuse Knapweed. Leafy spurge collections were held with marginal results. As usual we had some good collections and some poor collections. The yellow toadflax bio was found overwintering for the first time this year. The poison hemlock control was better than anticipated after only one year. For Diffuse Knapweed, the bio agent has been marginally successful.

Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) Update – Dale Anderson

Dale reported on surveys that were done in 2017. The corn/soybean survey was done mostly in eastern South Dakota looking for exotics and is essentially done. He is still waiting for the results though he isn't expecting any new insects to be detected. The Gypsy moth traps were placed in eastern South Dakota this year. Traps were also placed for Japanese beetle and karnal bunt for wheat was also done, though there was a smaller harvest this year.

USDA-APHIS-PPQ – Amy Mesman

Amy reported on grasshopper numbers are very low in western South Dakota. Reports in eastern South Dakota were much higher, but seasonals do not conduct surveys in the eastern part of the state. Seasonal staff did experience difficulty conducting the grasshopper surveys this season since they weren't always able to get permission to enter private property to conduct the surveys. The Emerald Ash Borer traps are being done by a contractor and they aren't always getting permission, which means some challenges.

OLD BUSINESS

Dakotafest Update

Ron Moehring, Brenda Sievers and Paul Johnson gave reports.

Brown County Fair Update

Mike Stenson reported wormwood sage and toadflax were the top two weeds inquired about. Brenda Sievers and Lynn Deibert also assisted at the show.

State Fair Update

Paul Johnson talked about the good crowds at State Fair. Entomology was also in the booth again this year answering questions. SDSU is looking to add extra space to the current booth for other Departments from the University.

NEW BUSINESS

US Fish and Wildlife Service - Natoma Hansen

Natoma talked to the Commission about the 9 counties that are in the Madison District. There are 220 waterfowl production areas. She talked about how they manage their noxious weed problems by surveying areas so they know where infestations are and using Milestone on those spots. Due to the limited staff and funding, they rely on complaints to address most of the problem areas. They also have some sites with pollinators that have native flowers and other species that are used to out-compete the weeds. In those areas that do get bad with weeds, they will clip or mow high. Craig talked about thistle areas in Deuel County that were about 80 acres but only 5 acres were clipped. Natoma will work with those problem areas to get control.

Chris Petersen – South Dakota Department of Agriculture – Fiscal Office

Chris went over the discussion that was held last year at the September Commission Meeting about the Conflict of Interest information that may affect the Weed and Pest Commission. So far, there hasn't been anything new come up on it. But Chris did pass out a timeline and a proposed Code of Ethical Conduct for Officers for Commission members to read. When a new draft comes out, Chris will share that information as well.

SD Attorney General's Office – Matt Naasz

Matt explained that he is the person that will be working with the Commission on any legal issues that may come up. One issue for discussion is the way new weeds are declared locally noxious after a county has made a request to the Commission. If there would be a time that the Commission would like to declare a weed locally noxious without going through the rules hearing process that currently needs to be initiated by the Secretary of Agriculture, the current rules appear to leave that possibility open. This comes from **12:62:03:01.07. List of weeds and pests for use in declaring locally noxious weeds or declared pests.** When requesting the commission for a declaration of locally noxious weeds or declared pests pursuant to § 12:62:07:03, a county board may select weeds or pests from the following list or may request declaration of other weeds that meet the requirements of §§ 12:62:07:01 and 12:62:07:02. There currently are no guidelines in rule or statute to do this, but the Commission could adopt a rule that would allow a way to list a weed without going through the rules hearing process. There would still have to be public testimony taken at the Commission Meeting to do this, which would look like a rules hearing and notice would have to be given that this would take place. After extensive discussion, a motion was made by Ron Thyen, seconded by Craig Magedanz, to have Matt work on creating a rule that could be used in the event of the need arising to declare a weed locally noxious without putting the weed on the current listing in rule 12:62:03:01:07. Motion carried.

Request to Put Wormwood Sage as State Noxious Weed – Dave Tatum – Hyde County

Dave showed some pictures from areas in and around Hyde County of the problems with Wormwood Sage. It is currently locally noxious for counties to declare but he has two counties that border him that don't have it declared. He thinks if it was adding to the state noxious weed listing that it would improve the control in those counties.

Request to Put Yellow Toadflax as State Noxious Weed – Michael Schwingler – McPherson County

Michael addressed the Commission with his concern of the increase in Yellow Toadflax. He thinks that if it was on the state noxious list that it would bring more awareness and control for it.

Discussion was held on both weeds and Lynn Deibert stated that in rule 12:62:03:06 it states the following: Additions to and deletions from noxious weed and declared pest lists. The commission shall evaluate additions and deletions to the noxious weed and declared pest lists at its annual meeting. Commissioners shall consider all requests for changes to the noxious weed and declared pest lists. He said the Commission will take more comments at the February meeting on both weeds and decide then if they would like to proceed to with a rules hearing to declare them state noxious.

Ryan Brunner exited the meeting, due to a previous commitment.

Railroad Issues

Bob Feldhus talked about and showed pictures of railroad weed control issues that he has in his county. Nathan Mueller also talked about some issues he has had. The state owned rail operated by Dakota Southern also has weed issues that have gone uncontrolled.

2018 Weed and Pest Conference Update – Larry Kucker, Association of SD County Weed & Pest Boards

Larry gave a Conference update. It will be held February 14-16 at the Ramkota in Rapid City. A committee will work on putting the agenda together.

Grant Criteria for FY2019

The grant criteria for the FY2019 fiscal year was discussed. The Commission again has \$650,000 for spending authority. A motion was made by Craig Magedanz, seconded by Neil VonEschen, to have \$330,000 available in regular/contractual county grants and \$320,000 available for competitive grants, with the remaining grant criteria to remain the same as last year. Motion carried.

Lynn Deibert appointed the following to the grant committee to go over the grants and make recommendation to the Commission at the February meeting: Clint Pitts, Neil VonEschen, Ryan Brunner, Craig Magedanz, Lynn Deibert, Mike Jaspers/Kyle Holt.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

A motion was made by Floyd Muntefering, seconded by Neil VonEschen, to pay for the meeting expenses, salary and per diem for this meeting. Motion carried.

Chairman Deibert declared the meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm.

Brenda Sievers
Commission Secretary

Lynn Deibert, Commission Chairman
(Approved Minutes)

DRAFT